

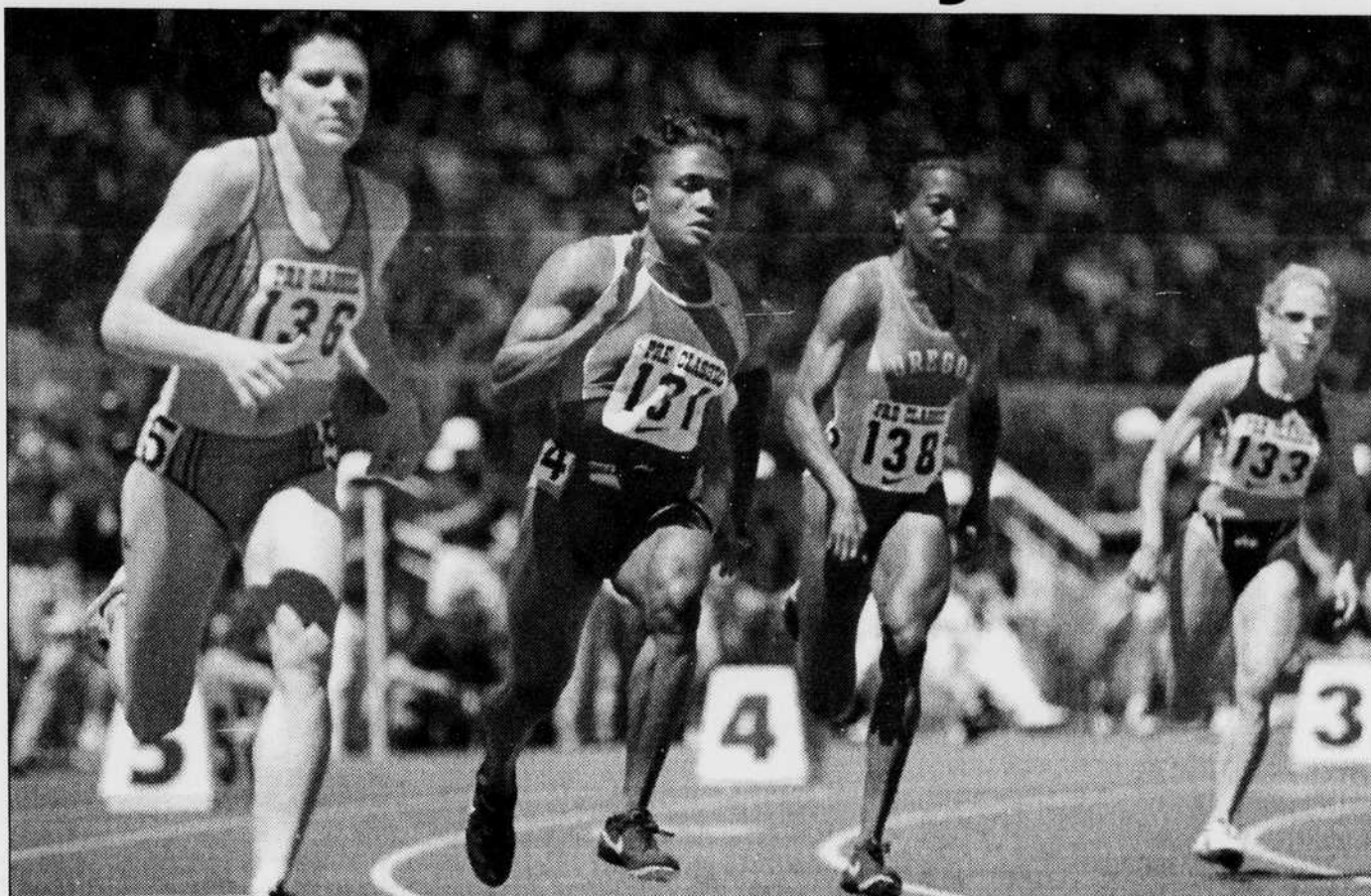


1998 PREFONTAINE CLASSIC

World's best dazzle Hayward crowd

"I was hoping to run 1:56, but sometimes things don't go your way."

Maria Mutola
800 meters



NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Maria Mutola (131) pulled away down the stretch to win the women's 800 meters.

Familiar faces return to Eugene for Pre Classic

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

Sunday afternoon's Prefontaine Classic served as a coming-out party for young Marion Jones.

In front of 13,721 fans at Hayward Field, Jones won both the 100-meter dash and long jump competitions, posting some stellar marks along the way.

Her 100-meter time of 10.78 would have easily broken the meet record of 10.96 were it not for a 2.03 meters-per-second wind. And her winning long jump of 23 feet, 11 3/4 inches was the best mark recorded in the world so far this year, as well as a meet and track record.

But it was a day for more familiar faces too, as past and present Eugene residents

Mary Slaney, Suzy Hamilton and Maria Mutola all won their respective races.

Mutola got things started with a one-minute, 58.66-second win in the 800 meters, more than a second off of her year-old meet record.

But, more importantly to Mutola, it was more than two seconds off the time she wanted to run on Sunday.

"I was hoping to run 1:56," Mutola said. "But sometimes things don't go your way. It's my first race [of the season], and I have a lot of races to go."

Mutola was helped in her efforts by Oregon senior Nicole Commissiong, who served as the pace-setter on Sunday under the banner of her native Canada before

Turn to **WOMEN**, Page 16



NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Mary Slaney (left) went on to easily win the 5,000 meters in 15:23.72, the fastest time by an American this year.

Young sprinters coming into international spotlight

The wind denied both Maurice Greene and Marion Jones of records at the Prefontaine Classic on Sunday

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

When Maurice Greene flew across the finish line after his 100-meter dash in the Prefontaine Classic on Sunday, there were two marks to check.

Greene knew that he should not only check the Hayward Field scoreboard for his time, but the on-track wind gauge as well.

"I saw the scoreboard first," Greene said. What he saw was a potential world-record time of 9.79 seconds, a half-second faster than Donovan Bailey's standing record of 9.84, which was set at the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996.

But when the race-time wind speed was announced at 2.83 meters per second, well past the allowable two, Greene's world

record was erased faster than it could be recorded.

Not that Greene would allow the conditions to rain on his parade.

"I can't be disappointed about the weather," he said. "I'm just concentrating on running the best technical race that I can. Unfortunately, the wind wasn't legal, but I'll get my chance; I'm not worried."

Less than an hour earlier, another rising young star was making her own mark in the Prefontaine.

Marion Jones, who on May 19 posted a 100-meter time of 10.71 in China, scorched the women's 100-meter field Sunday to win in 10.78. That would have been enough to eclipse Gwen Torrance's two-year-old meet record of 10.96, but again the wind wreaked havoc.

"I thought I was going to run maybe

1998



Prefontaine Classic

10.80-something today, and was hoping for a little better wind, but 2.03 [mps] is OK," Jones said. "I'm happy with it. There were a couple of technical flaws that will be ironed out in the next couple of weeks, but other than that, it was good."

The victories by Greene, 23, and Jones, 22, could be a sign of things to come in international track and field.

Greene holds the 60-meter indoor world record and is the reigning world champion in the 100 meters. Jones was selected the 1997 Women's Athlete of the Year by Track & Field News, and her win in China came in a sprint billed as the "world's fastest woman" race. Her winning time of 10.71 was the fifth-fastest time ever recorded, and the best time in history by a woman other than Florence Griffith-Joyner.

Craig Masback, CEO of U.S.A. Track & Field, compared Jones in 1998 to where Carl Lewis was in 1982. That's high praise considering the length and success of Lewis' ca-

Turn to **SPRINTERS**, Page 12



NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Marion Jones poses after one of her two victories Sunday afternoon.